

# VIRGINIA LIFE

NOVEMBER 1998

ONE DOLLAR







## Director's Column

William L. Woodfin, Jr

Clear cool nights and bluebird days mark November as one of the most sought after times of the year for people who enjoy hunting. You could say this is the month that more than 300,000 Virginia hunters dream about. This is a time when one's senses are at a peak, as the anticipation of another hunting season unfolds.

Virginia is blessed with an abundance of wildlife resources and hunting opportunities abound. Over 180,000 acres of land on 29 wildlife management areas, one and a half million acres of U. S. Forest, and dozens of State Parks, are available to the hunter. It is said that no matter where you live in Virginia you are no more than a two-hour drive from the nearest public hunting area.

Get a copy of the 1998-99 *Hunting Regulations* and you will read that just about every kind of hunting opportunity is available this month. Deer, rabbit, squirrel, quail, turkey, bear, dove and even waterfowl are all in season, at one time or another during the month of November. Pick up a copy of the 1998-99 *Virginia Hunting Guide* and you will not only find out what animals and birds you can expect to see while spending time in the outdoors, but also a region by region forecast for this year's hunting season.

# Hunting for Possibilities

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries puts a lot of planning, hard work, and time into making sure that hunting is an enjoyable sport. From the work of our wildlife biologists who help us better understand the needs of wildlife, to the law enforcement officers who are there rain or shine, looking out for the safety of each and every one of us. Hunting also has a major economic impact on the economy. Annually expenditures from hunting and hunting related activities generate nearly a half billion dollars for Virginia's economy.

It's also our good fortune to have a host of people who volunteer their time to insure that the tradition of hunting will be around for generations to come. Each year, over 1200 volunteer Hunter Education instructors introduce close to 20,000 newcomers to the sport of hunting. Special events to promote youth hunting, like the waterfowl hunt at Hog Island Wildlife Management Area in Surry County, and programs like "Women in the Outdoors" all strive to promote and teach the virtues of hunting.

Hunters will also have the chance to reach the needy by sharing the bounty of nature with the less fortunate through Hunters for the Hungry, a non-profit charity. Over the last eight years hunters have shared their good fortunes by donating a portion of their harvested deer during the season. In that short peri-



Dwight Dyke

od of time over 675,000 pounds of venison has been distributed to food banks across the state.

Safety is one of the most important keys to a successful hunting trip. The use of blaze orange, such as a cap or clothing that is visible from 360 degrees and at least 100 square inches, is required for all small and big game hunters during the general firearms season. Accurate identification of legal game is also very important. These tips will assure that your hunting experience will be one that is both safe and enjoyable.

The possibilities for having a great time outdoors during November are virtually limitless. It's no wonder so many hunters, anglers, boaters and people who just enjoy watching wildlife, find Virginia such a great state. Please remember to make sure you have a safe time in the outdoors and take time to involve your kids or a youngster. They represent the next generation that is the future to the sport of hunting.

### Mission Statement

To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation; to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing.



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Color separations and printing by  
Nittany Valley Offset, State College, PA.

*Virginia Wildlife* (ISSN 0042 6792) is published monthly by the Public Information Section of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Box 11104, 4010 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23230-1104. Postage for periodicals paid at Richmond, Virginia and additional entry offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Virginia Wildlife*, P.O. Box 7477, Red Oak, Iowa 51591-0477.

Subscription department: 1-800-710-9369. Domestic and foreign rates: one year, \$10.00; three years, \$24.00; back issues \$1.00 each subject to availability.

Submission guidelines available upon request. The Department accepts no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, photographs or artwork. Permission to reprint material from *Virginia Wildlife* must be obtained from the writer, artist or photographer as well as the editor.

Observations, conclusions and opinions expressed in *Virginia Wildlife* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the members or staff of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

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Cover: Raccoon, photo by Lynda Richardson

Background photo: Mattaponi River, photo by Dwight Dyke

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*Dedicated to the Conservation of Virginia's Wildlife and Natural Resources*

VOLUME 18

NUMBER 11





# Hands-On Art for Nature Love

*Bringing clay to life  
highlights Virginia's  
coastal wildlife.*

Story by Anne Nagro  
photos by Dwight Dyke

**T**he midnight blue cottage and studio of renowned potters Karen and Robert Podd lies nestled among the pines on a quiet country lane in Mathews County.

Although definitely off the beaten path, wildlife and art lovers from





around the world find their way to this quaint workshop to buy everything from beautiful stoneware birdhouses, to three-dimensional tile wall hangings, to functional serving pieces.

It's not surprising that the Podd's award-winning work reflects their daily inspiration: Virginia's coastal wildlife. Their home, studio and retail outlet, called The Poddery, sits at the tidal headwaters of the pristine East River, an estuary of the Chesapeake Bay. This marshy habitat is home to herons, ospreys, blue crabs, fish, songbirds, deer, as well as vari-

ous marsh grasses, pine, walnut and oak trees.

"Originally, we didn't know the location would influence our work so much," says Robert Podd, who, with Karen, moved to rural Mathews County from Norfolk nearly 26 years ago.

The Podd's located in Norfolk from Greater Chicago in 1968 as newlyweds. Robert was serving in the U.S. Navy, and Karen was an art teacher for the Norfolk public schools. In 1972, they bought and reno-

vated an old farmhouse, built the studios and quit their city jobs to work The Poddery full-time.

"When we moved here, I wanted to attract more birds to the house, but I didn't like all the plastic stuff available. We wanted natural, beautiful birdhouses and birdbaths for our yard. People saw the ones we made and wanted them for themselves," recalls Karen.

Their unique birdhouses, stately birdbaths and hummingbird feeders are admired by feathered creatures and bird lovers, alike. "I look to the garden for my inspiration," says Karen, as she "throws" a pot on the wheel and looks out her large studio window to the gardens and river. "Many of the shapes we make are reminiscent of vegetables and gourds and some incorporate leaf designs, giving them a very natural



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In an old renovated farm house just off the Chesapeake Bay, Karen and Robert Podd's artistic talents and love of pottery have inspired them to create masterful works of art, that reflect the soul of Virginia's coastal wildlife.

look. I was always very interested in oriental art, where shapes come from nature and decorations are very organic."

Watchable wildlife comes indoors with the Podd's life-like wall art. One almost expects the graceful, sculpted egrets to continue their careful pace through the marsh grass. Tinkling fountains, reminiscent of bamboo ponds, make beautiful additions to both indoor and outdoor spaces with their soothing sound.

One of the artists' most popular pottery lines, named "Bayscapes," gets customers involved in the creative process. Beautifully glazed sculptures of individual fish, shells, seaweed, crabs, starfish and other marine creatures are arranged on stone tiles to suit the customer's style and wall space requirements.

"Imprints of real fish, crabs and other creatures were used to make the sculpture reproductions," explains Robert. "The rust-colored iron oxide glaze picks up every minute detail, such as fish scales and crab points."

Glaze colors include off-white, bluish-purple, light green and the rusty brown, which complement the natural slate and marble panels. The tiles' unique veins and grains are a dramatic backdrop to the bayscape. "The irregularities in the tile mimic the irregularities in nature," states Karen. Each resulting "relief" is a unique interpretation of local marine life.



Blue crabs, starfish, shells and other marine creatures are themes that influence everything from birdhouses to custom floor tiles. The Podd's style of "relief" which results in a rather unique look, helps to bring each piece of pottery to life. **Bottom right:** A popular event at The Poddery are the kiln openings held twice a year.







"Some customers like to pick out their favorite pieces, but don't feel confident designing the bayscape. Others really get involved in the process, such as fishermen who enjoy creating a scene that incorporates their intended catch," smiles Karen. Customers also enjoy buying solitary creatures for hanging in a special place.

Coastal wildlife influences the Podds' pottery servingware, as well. Blue crabs—that serve as hand grips—scramble into serving bowls. Leaping fish form a handle for a basket-style bowl. Barnacles cling to a vase. Oysters and clams add dimension to mugs, casserole dishes and platters. Not only is the servingware attractive, it's functional. "All pieces are safe for the microwave, dishwasher and oven," adds Robert. The artists regularly produce hundreds of shapes and decorate them in 15 different glazes.

The wildlife theme carries over into sculpted and flat custom tiles for kitchen and bath, wall mirrors and cabinet knobs. Rabbits, ducks, turtles and marine creatures make everyday items and spaces come to life.

Restaurants and office buildings throughout Virginia feature wildlife-inspired art by the Podds. Beret's Seafood Restaurant & Raw Bar in Williamsburg features a large, sculpted mural of a marsh with a deadrise boat and pier behind the bar, and a fish above the fireplace, among other pieces. A school of larger-than-life fish swim on a dining room wall and an egret takes flight inside the main entrance of The River's Inn in Gloucester. And an intricate forest scene, similar to one on display at the Poddery, graces Disney's Lake Buena Vista Convention Center in Florida.

The artists are most excited about the large bayscape mural recently completed for the Seabreeze Restaurant on Gwynn's Island. Pilings, crab pots and various marine creatures give diners a new underwater perspective. Their largest bayscape wall to date, the four-by-eight foot

piece, hangs on an outdoor wall near the restaurant's entrance.

"It's an opportunity to experience the environment below the water's surface," enthuses Karen. "You can see the pieces, feel the texture, touch an imprint of a real crab. It becomes an educational thing."

Currently, the Podds are working with Colonial Williamsburg (CW) to reproduce terra cotta garden pots for the organization's working nursery. The vessels will become part of CW's permanent living history collection.

In 1993, they were selected by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation to reproduce terra cotta pots for garden plants at Jefferson's home, Monticello, according to his original specifications. These included bell-shaped forcing pots and large planters for the garden room in Monticello.

Each week, the artists fire approximately 200 new pieces in a gas-fired kiln, which can result in dramatic glaze changes. "Every time we fire we know to an extent what we'll see, but every piece becomes unique," relates Robert. "It's what keeps our work alive."

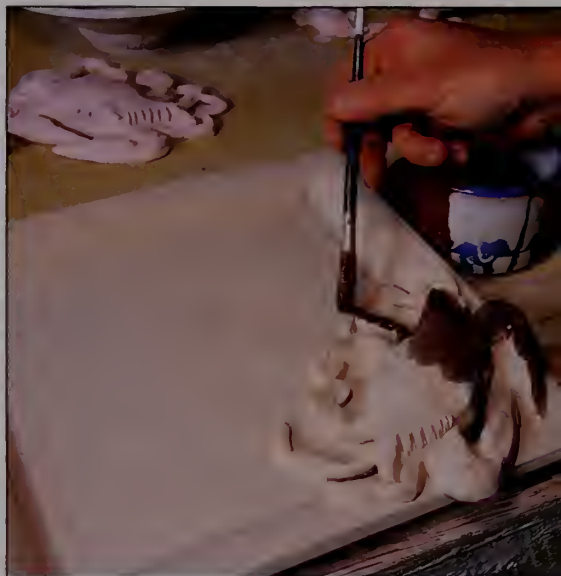
Highly popular are The Poddery's two annual kiln openings, which they've held for more than 20 years. Always held the Saturdays before and after Thanksgiving, these festive events provide a rare and unique op-



*The process starts with a piece of clay. The Podds then mold each lump into a reflection of nature. Each piece of pottery is a one-of-a-kind work of art. Unlike many artists, their artworks are more than just a pretty object to admire; they're designed to be functional.*







portunity to purchase warm pottery from the kiln. Refreshments are available, and Karen Podd leads the large gatherings in lively discussions on the process of creating, glazing and firing pottery.

Karen Podd sums up the popularity of their work: "It's touchable art. It's not fragile. You can look a fish in the eye, or watch a hummingbird take food from a feeder and learn something about your environment at the same time." □

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*The Poddery, Route 660, Foster, Va., can be reached at (804) 725-5956. It is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

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*Anne Nagro is a writer from Mathews County, Virginia.*



*This small game  
can be a  
challenge even  
for seasoned  
hunters.*

by Gerald Almy

**S**mall game hunting has slipped a bit in popularity over recent years with the tremendous rise in deer and turkey populations and a shift in focus to those species. But, if you want some delicious table fare and action-packed sport, don't overlook the more diminutive quarries found in Virginia's woods and uplands. The two most popular small game animals in the Old Dominion are rabbits and squirrels. Both offer you engaging sport and excellent chances for success; but some of my favorite memories of small game

focus on squirrels. One of the reasons is they represent a great quarry for still-hunting.

This is an immensely rewarding way to pursue game—walking slowly through the woods, pausing often as you scan the habitat for your quarry. It's active, so you don't get cold on bitter, blustery days, yet you don't move frenetically enough that you work up a sweat and chill down, either. You feel like you've gotten a good day's exercise, yet you're not sore to the bone like most of us are after a day chasing grouse across the mountainsides.

Another nice thing about still-hunting squirrels is it usually yields at least a modest bulge in the game

# Still Hunt For Squirrels

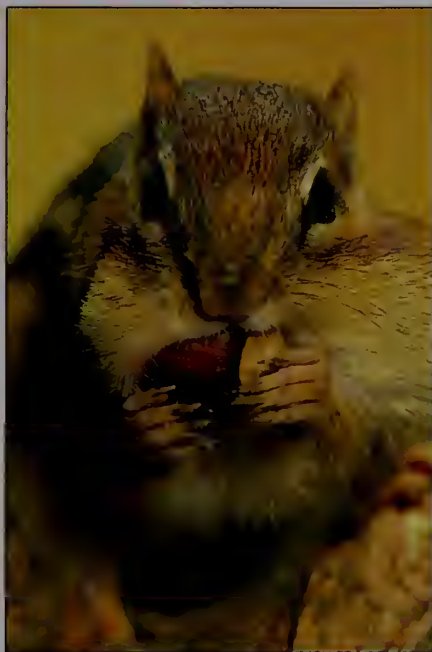




pouch. If you were still-hunting deer it might take many days of effort before you bag your quarry. The still-hunter of squirrels, on the other hand, rarely comes home without at least a couple of bushytails.

Despite their abundance, stalking squirrels is still challenging. The animals are quick and wary. For the rifleman, squirrels are small, difficult targets. When scampering through the woods or hot-footing it up a tree trunk, a squirrel isn't an easy shot for the scattergunner, either. It takes a knowledge of the quarry's favorite habitat, a good hunting strategy and a concentrated effort to score consistently.

Other attractions to squirrel hunting are that it's inexpensive and readily accessible. Finally, the taste



©Maslowski Photo

concentrate on quiet footwork, calculating where each step will fall while simultaneously planning your route through the woods searching for game. Both eyes and ears must work non-stop to perceive the quarry's giveaway signs. Unlike the stand hunter, you're always moving—seeing new sights, hearing fresh sounds and getting exercise.

The first step in still-hunting squirrels is to make sure you have the right gear. Camouflage clothing will up your odds for success considerably, but is not absolutely vital. A coat can be worn for cold-weather hunts, but I often opt for a vest. Whichever you choose, be sure it has a roomy game pouch, several pockets, and shell holders.

Soft-soled footwear works well for silent walking. If the terrain isn't wet or too cold, moccasins or tennis shoes are great for super-quiet stalking. A more practical choice is usually a pair of lightweight leather boots. Always wear a hat with a brim. This shields the glare of the sun from your eyes when you look into trees, keeps the rain off your head and hides your face from the squirrels.

Both rifles and shotguns are effective for taking squirrels. The time of year may be the most important factor in choosing which to use, unless hunting regulations dictate what firearms are legal. For early fall hunts, when leaves hang heavily on trees, shotguns are preferred by many hunters. Usually you have to get fairly close to squirrels before you spot them under these conditions. Shots are often taken at game hopping wildly through the forest litter or scampering across a high oak limb. A modified or improved cylinder choked shotgun shines in these situations.

After the leaves have fallen and visibility is better, a 22 caliber, shooting Long Rifle ammo, is an excellent choice of firearm. It's challenging shooting and it offers good practice for big game hunting later. The gun should be equipped with a 2.5, 4 or 6X scope, or a variable in the 2.5-9X range. I prefer a regular 1-inch diameter big game scope for my squirrel

*Small game hunters will agree Virginia offers some excellent opportunities when it comes to hunting squirrels. They are found throughout the state and this small ghost of the woods can present a real challenge to even the most skilled hunter.*

of this quarry when baked, fried or stewed, is superb. Try it in Brunswick stew with biscuits, salad and a glass of Merlot and you'll find the lean, tender meat makes a superb meal.

Although there are many effective ways to pursue squirrels, including stand hunting, floating, and using dogs, I find I keep coming back to still-hunting more often than not. The method is totally engaging for both mind and body. You have to



©Maslowski Photo



rifle, because of its increased light-gathering capabilities. Zero in for 50 yards and aim for the head or neck when you spot your quarry. Before selecting a rifle for squirrel hunting, though, make sure it's legal in the area you plan to hunt.

Choosing the best times to stalk squirrels can boost your chances for success considerably. Try to hunt in the early morning, when a heavy dew lies on the ground. After a light rain or snowfall is a good time to still hunt, because the moisture quiets the forest. You can slink along as quietly as a pad-footed cat under these conditions. Choosing optimum times is especially important early in the fall, when the woods are often dry and fresh-fallen leaves lay on the ground, ready to crackle and crunch every time your foot touches the forest floor.

We had just such a dry fall one year recently and, as a result, I had done very little squirrel stalking. But, one afternoon a light rain came. The next morning I was up at dawn, sneaking along a favorite strip of oaks, sycamores and walnuts between two cornfields. Before two hours were up a pair of grays and one fox squirrel were in the game pouch—all I cared to take—and I headed back to the cabin. I'd covered barely 200 yards of woods, but the rain-moistened forest allowed the quiet approach necessary to bag all the game I needed for a tasty Brunswick stew.

You can even enjoy excellent stalking *during* a light rain or snowfall. Squirrels often feed at these times and are quite active. A heavy snowfall or pelting rain, though, will keep them in their treetop hide-outs.

Also monitor the wind. Blustery, windy conditions will keep squirrels holed up tight. Even if they do venture out in the wind they're often extremely wary and skittish. The wind also makes it harder to hear the quarry as it scampers across branches and runs through the leaves.



©Dwight Dyke



When searching for squirrels, the main thing to keep in mind is food. The game will be where the food is. Nuts are the major item in the diet of squirrels. Acorns, hickory nuts, walnuts...all are favorite items on the bushytail's menu. Also important at times are soft mast, such as wild grapes and farm crops such as corn.

When scouting for good squirrel woods, look for hillsides with southern and eastern exposures. More sunlight strikes these slopes and often that results in better mast crops. Creek and river bottoms and areas around springs are especially good for both fox and gray squirrels. As you check potential hunting sights, also look for squirrel signs in the form of discarded cornhusks that have been dragged back into the woods and fresh cuttings (shell fragments where squirrels have chewed open nuts).

If you find food and signs, you're likely in good stalking territory. Make sure the woods aren't too tangled or congested with undergrowth, though. Grouse like that type of cover, but squirrels prefer more open, mature woods with less undergrowth. It's also easier to spot the quarry in areas that are less congested.

Still-hunting squirrels is a lot like still-hunting deer, only a bit less intense. The most important things to remember are to walk little, move very slowly, and pause often. When you're moving, at least partially focus your eyes on the ground so you can place each foot down softly and not crunch twigs and brittle leaves.

This means that you'll actually do most of your searching for game when you have stopped your forward progress. In top squirrel habitat, when you see signs or the game itself quite often, pause every five or ten steps and scan the woods around you carefully. If the habitat seems just fair, walk a bit more between pauses. Never move at a rapid pace,

though, unless you're moving to a different area. Slow, fluid motion is the key to success.

Trying to pick out this salt-and-pepper gray quarry, that blends in so well with its habitat, is one of the most challenging parts of still-hunting squirrels. Fortunately, the animals often give away their locations with certain signs. If it has spotted you, or if it is eating, the squirrel may well be stationary. In this case, look for the odd, oval hump that doesn't fit in with the linear, tree branch formations, or a long, bushy tail hanging down from a limb.

Study any such out-of-place forms you see on trees. They'll often reveal themselves to be squirrels hunkered down, hoping their camouflage colors and stillness will prevent them from being detected. This is a favorite tactic of fox squirrels. They seem to sense that they're slower, more plodding animals than grays and will do wise to freeze, and hope the hunter passes them by, rather than trying to run for cover.

Stationary squirrels are the hardest to spot, but fortunately, many of these animals reveal themselves with motion. I was stalking an oak ridge not long ago when I paused to scan the woods around me. I stood for four or five minutes searching, but could see nothing. Then a long, gray object to my left suddenly began flickering. My eyes focused on the movement and soon it dawned on me that I was looking at a gray squirrel's jiggling tail. Further study revealed the rest of the animal flattened against a limb. Taking careful aim, I dropped the mature animal with a shot from the Remington bolt-action .22. Don't always expect to see squirrels in trees, either. In the mornings, I often see as many squirrels on the ground as I do up high.

While vision is usually how you'll detect your quarry, don't overlook the telltale sounds they make, either. Listen for a muffled bark, excited chatter, the pitter-pat-

ter of shell fragments falling to the forest floor, the crunch of teeth gnawing through nuts and the rustling of leaves as squirrels scurry through the woods.

A squirrel call can be valuable for revealing an animal's exact location if you hear something but don't know precisely where the quarry is. A bit of soft chatter or a bark will usually entice the squirrel to give its location away.

Once you spot the game, a quick decision is necessary. If you're shotgun hunting and the squirrel has spotted you and is moving out, fast mounting and a snap shot are in order. Swing up quickly past the target, lead it slightly, then slap the trigger. Squirrels don't move as fast as grouse, but if you don't lead them a little when they're running you'll likely miss.

If you're hunting with a rifle, forget about such running shots. If the squirrel hasn't seen you and is stationary, mount the gun slowly, aim and fire. Always try to brace yourself by taking a rest against a tree and use your sling to steady your hold.


Sneaking up on bushytails won't quite match the excitement of stalking a trophy white-tailed deer or calling in a long-bearded gobbler. But it is a challenging and intriguing sport, available for free to everyone wherever there's a good stand of nut-bearing hardwoods. There's always a surplus in the population and hunting has had no negative impact to squirrel populations. While the big game hunter might go on many outings before harvesting his or her quarry, the squirrel stalker who puts in serious effort can count on bringing home the ingredients for a delicious meal virtually every time he walks into the woods. □

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*Gerald Almy is a regular contributor to Virginia Wildlife, and is also a field editor for Sports Afield magazine.*



# Mattaponi



*For Latane Trice, the gentle flowing water of this river has rewarded him with treasures that are richer than anyone could ever imagine.*

by Randall Shank

Virginia is changing. The woods and waters I hunted and fished as a boy are not the same. The fields where I trained my Brittany spaniel on quail now are host to houses instead of patches of honeysuckle and lespedeza. A factory has replaced an old farmstead in the valley and, with it, the habitat for rabbits and birds. On our tidal rivers a way of life, for those who lived on and near the rivers, has all but disappeared.

In what is still rural King and Queen County there is a wise gentleman born in the early years of the 20th century. Mr. Latane Trice has lived all of his 85 years on the Mattaponi River. His house sits on a bluff overlooking the river where

he and his English setter, "George," are able to keep an eye on the comings and goings on the river and his farm. Latane is a well-known farmer and conservationist and a friend to all. The new bridge that crosses the Mattaponi River at the village of Walkerton, is named in his honor. He was a commissioner with the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries from 1983 until 1987.

The idea for this article began on a winter morning as I sat in a duck blind with Latane on the Mattaponi. Latane shared some of what he knows about the river and region—its history and its wildlife. What follows are some of Latane's memories. For anyone that cares about rivers, wildlife and people, these are memories that should not be lost.

## *Duck Hunting*

"Right at the turn of the century my father and Uncle Tom ran an old farm up the river. Back in those days there was sharecropping and there was a great character whose name was Jack Todd. In reality, Jack didn't want to farm much anyway. A set of plow handles didn't fit his hands. But Jack aimed to make a living primarily out of the forest and out of the water. In the spring of the year he would get his shad and herring net ready, and he would fish and salt 'em down till the next year. He farmed a little in the summer and in the fall he would fish for bass, pike and crappie. The same time, he would get ready for huntin' season and he would row his boat, and his old Belgian hammer lock double bar-



# Memories



Photos by ©Dwight Dyke

rel was right there beside him. If a squirrel came out over the river, well, he had him or if a duck came by, he shot him.

What Jack had his eye on was the marsh on the farm. He would catch a muskrat and eat the meat and sell the pelts. He would catch a mink occasionally and he would catch maybe one otter per season. But you know, as good a trapper as Jack was, one otter a season was good. The otters weren't here like they are now. Today, in the right places, the river can be full of otters.

Back in the early 1900s daddy said Jack was feeding ducks up in the marsh. What daddy told me was that Jack shot one time with the old Belgian hammer gun and brought back to the landing 16 wild ducks. So I asked, 'Daddy,

what did Jack do with all those ducks?'

He said, 'Lord son, he put 'em on the steamboat, *Louise*, which connected with another boat in West Point, and they went to Baltimore.'

They sold the ducks in pairs. Back in those days, Buffleheads sold for less, black ducks sold for \$1.25 - \$1.50 a pair. If Jack got a \$1.50 a pair, he had a good day's work, ya see. And it's just hard to imagine that on this river, the Mataponi, back at the turn of the century, they shot ducks and shipped 'em to market in Baltimore. I'm told that over on the Rappahannock River they would load 'em in barrels and put 'em on the steamboat and ship 'em. They shipped 'em to a commission merchant.

That way, they sold them to a wholesaler who then resold them. Canvasbacks

brought a good price, \$5.00 - \$7.00 a pair. It's just hard to imagine these things; that right here in this Tidewater area, ducks were shot for the market and it was perfectly legal.

In 1936 I was in a store in Kilmarnock and a very knowledgeable man by the name of Mr. Hall was sitting there, and he said, 'Boys, I want to tell you something. Back when my father was a young man (during the days of market hunting) they used to feed ducks, trap them and sell them. My father built the first off-shore blind in the Chesapeake Bay.'"



## Quail

"I started hunting quail in the early 30s and we had quail to hunt. I didn't have a car to drive to carry the dogs. If I was going to hunt, I would have to hitch a horse to the cart and the dogs would run along. Then World War II came on, and after the war we had good quail

hunting. I can remember, my brother was in the South Pacific for about four years. When he got back out of the service, he and I went hunting. On that particular day every field we hunted had a covey of quail. I got a bird out of every covey that rose.

Something started to happen. During the war farming looked pretty good. Crops were bringing a good price. After the war people wanted to farm more land. Farmers bulldozed fencerows and hedgerows. The cuts and corners were cleared up and put in cultivation. All of that destroyed good quail habitat.

You can't blame the decline of quail on only one thing. It's a combination of things. I will deny anyone to tell you that hawks do not hunt quail. I had this experience. I was hunting quail, got a shot and crippled the bird, and I didn't bring him down. In a matter of seconds a hawk came by with my quail in its claws.

Farmers are farming clean. The average farmer will cut every soybean. My policy is to always leave some soybeans around the edges and leave the quail something to eat. We need to encourage all farmers to leave something for the wildlife. Leaving land out of production makes for good habitat for quail. When I was on the Game Commission, I led the fight to cut out February hunting of quail. After it was cut out, I had people call me and thank me for getting it done."

## Shad and Rockfish

"I have fished for shad with nets since my early teens. Daddy and I would go out here on the river after supper and we would catch fish to eat. If we caught excess fish to eat, and I was taking the horse and buggy to school, then I would sell 'em to somebody and get a little money. If you caught four or five it was good, but we weren't fishing but two pounds of seine. Using five pounds of seine, one or two nights in my life I have caught as many as 80 shad. About 25 years ago we had the greatest run of shad in this river that I have ever known. And then they started dropping off.



Lloyd Hill



About seven years ago this spring I was over at the Pamunkey Indian Reservation. I asked Chief Cook a point blank question. 'Chief, don't you think that 30 years ago the shad population dropped to a very low level?'

His reply was, 'Yes sir, you are exactly right.'

One of the men standing there said, 'Chief, don't you remember that I used to row you and after fishing the tide I could bring you over? And we caught and counted them on our fingers?'

Now I am making a point to you. The shad numbers went down. But I think they'll come back. Let me tell you something about rockfish. Back yonder in the 40s I was traveling up and down the Northern Neck and down to West Point. The commercial fishermen had haul seines that were 1200 yards long. They circled out in the river and they would load a truck with rockfish. Then the rockfish went down, but now they are coming back.

## The Timber Industry

You see, King & Queen County, its living has always been farming and timber. When you think about timber, you think about sawtimber and you think about pulpwood. But back in those days when I was growing up, it was cordwood and lumber. It was all cut and hauled to the river shores and to the landing and loaded on boats and shipped away from here. Back then poplar was cut, but now it's mostly pine. Now I remember when Chesapeake (formerly Chesapeake Corporation, which is now St. Laurent Paper Co.) came to West Point about 1912. Prior to that, my gosh, lumber went from here to

Delaware and Baltimore. They shipped a lot of gum and poplar wood. They cut logs five feet long and the poor fellows would lift themselves to death. There was a wood landing right around this house. There was a chute and they would run 'em down there. They loaded wood here on the farm and up at Rose Spout—railroad ties, cordwood and lumber.

They used to ship right much lumber from Aylett. The logger used to cut pine wood and skin the bark off of it and in the winter it would dry at the landing. Above Aylett, in some places, they had a boom across the river, big timbers were bolted together, floated down and they used hooks to pull it in. They would carry the wood down the river in flat boats and by hand, load it on the ship. My granddaddy ran a sawmill and the lumber was hauled to Aylett. He always had the reputation of having good mules. He loved the team so much that he

*Latane Trice reflects on the history of the Mattaponi River, in a book he wrote, **Two Bells and a Jingle**. He talks about how in the early 1900's the river served as a major route for transporting people and goods. Steam powered boats like the*

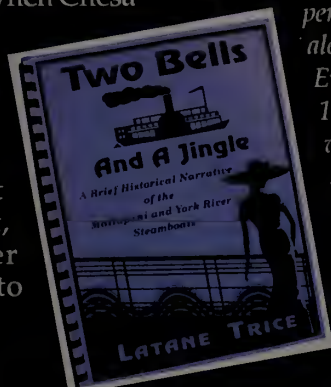
*Louise (right) were permanent fixtures along this waterway. Even after sinking in 1923, the Louise was reborn again, a bit smaller, but still able to continue her important work.*

*Background photo by Dwight Dyke.*

had an artesian well dug to water his team in Aylett.

## Steamboats on the Rivers

The *Louise* was an old cotton boat from Georgia. She ran from 1906 to 1923, and ran all the way to what is now the Aylett boat landing (now owned by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries). Soon after she got here she sunk on the Mattaponi River, below King and Queen Court House. They raised her up. Uncle Tom told me, she was too big for this river, so they sent her away and cut her down from two smoke stacks to one smoke stack. The *Louise* went down in 1923.





The boat that took her place was the *Commodore Bartlett*. It was owned by a black man, and Captain Christian, a Norwegian, was captain. There were several steamboats that used the Mattaponi over the years. The *West Point*, the *Robert E. Lee*, and the *Elm City* were a few of the other steamboats besides the *Louise* and the *Commodore Bartlett*. I rode the *Louise* once, in my father's arms on an excursion to West Point on the Fourth of July.

## Epilogue

As Latane and I finished talking, we went outside and looked out over the marsh on the Mattaponi River. A sleek new power boat raced down the river. Following the boat in the distance, and in my mind, I could see the "Louise" moving up the river toward the Aylett boat landing. And then, that steamer was followed by ole' Jack Todd, as he rowed his boat around the marsh looking for ducks. I tried to imagine the logs being hauled down to the landings for the trip to Delaware

and Baltimore. I could see a small boy leaving the house with his daddy in the pre-dawn to walk and catch the ferry and later the train to Richmond.

The world around the Mattaponi is no longer the way it once was. Development encroaches from all directions. With each passing year, more houses, docks, boats and people appear on the river and its shores. And each year it seems that there is less and less of a forested buffer to protect the river from the intrusions of man.

Like the Mattaponi, Latane Trice has seen the world change dramatically in his lifetime. Unlike most people in our modern world, his values and his roots remain tied to the river and the land. The Mattaponi does that to you. On that cold winter morning after our duck hunt on the river, and after Latane had gone home, my other hunting companion looked at me and said, "I hope that when I am in my 80's, I will still be out here hunting ducks."

I looked out over the marsh as a late flight of pintails dove down to the river and then faded out of view. I replied, "Yeah, me too."

The Mattaponi River and the land along its shores has given Latane Trice a lifetime of memories. It's my hope and dream, as Virginia continues to grow and expand, that we will somehow find a way to protect and preserve the Mattaponi. If we don't, then all that Latane Trice has remembered as being the way it was, will cease to be a memory. And the riches of rivers like the Mattaponi will be gone forever. □

*Randall Shank is an outdoor writer, hunter and fisherman who lives in Aylett, Virginia.*





# Restoring Our Wetlands





# Teaming landowners with

by Tom Barnett  
and David Norris

**T**he saga of our wetlands reads much as a fairy tale, "Once upon a time..." The saga's ending is still being written. New wetland restoration initiatives are pointing towards a more positive future for lands, that once seemed lost and gone forever.

Today, cost share initiatives for wetland restoration projects are targeted primarily at private landowners. These initiatives now offer up to 90 percent of restoration expenses. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), 75 percent of the existing wetlands in the country are privately owned. Therefore, the future for our nation's fish and wildlife depends on private landowners.

For 250 years, the misguided notion existed that wetlands were largely wastelands. Over 200 million acres of wetlands covered our nation during colonial days. Less than half that acreage remains, and more is continuing to be lost. Between the 1950s and the 1970s, 2,800 acres were lost annually in the Chesapeake Bay region alone. While land surface has met a 4 percent decline, due in part to rising sea levels, wetlands have suffered a 42 percent decline! Nearly 750,000 acres of Virginia's wetlands have vanished.

A variety of methods are used to restore these lost wetlands. Typically, an area which was historically wet and has been drained by human activities is desirable for restoration. Some of the techniques used to drain wetlands include digging ditches, installing drains, or placing tiles that move water from a site to allow the building of homes, crop production or livestock grazing. To restore a wetland, the draining mechanism must be reversed. This



©Dwight Dyke

can be accomplished by filling the ditch, creating a small dike, or breaking the tile system. A water control structure is then installed so the water level can be managed to mimic normal flood events and encourage the growth of natural wetland vegetation.

## *Wetlands Restoration*

If you want to manage a portion of your property to maximize wildlife habitat, but do not know where to begin, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), with its partner agencies and organizations, can help you de-

velop a plan that meets your needs. Activities may include restoring wetlands, setting land aside to provide food and cover, planting hardwood forests and buffers, or providing assistance in managing existing habitat.

The following is a list of technical services that are offered:

1. Giving advice on how to manage existing wildlife habitat.
2. Guiding landowners to cost-share funds available for wetland restorations.
3. Helping landowners through the wetland restoration permitting process.



# funding initiatives.



Working as a team, private landowners, state and federal conservation agencies, and private organizations are helping to reverse the loss of wetlands in Virginia. **Above:** Private landowner Biggy Hunt, from Centreville, Virginia, discusses options for site restoration with wetlands biologist, David Norris (right). **Right:** They are joined at Mr. Hunt's planned restoration site by Mac McDannald, who is also interested in wetland restoration.

Cover photo ©Scotty Lovett.

4. Designing restoration plans for individuals not interested in cost share.

5. Helping landowners acquire appropriate equipment.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries works cooperatively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Wildlife Program (PFW), and Ducks Unlimited to pool biological staff and cost-share funds. Qualifying projects are designed and constructed by one of the partner agencies, in conjunction with the landowner. Bridgett Costanzo, Program Coordinator for USFWS, indicated, "Cooperation between state and federal conservation agencies and private organizations, such as Ducks Unlimited and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, is at an all time high. A large number of the habitat projects implemented in Virginia involve two or more agencies and organizations working together to provide the landowner with the best possible outcome. It may seem a little confusing to the landowner at first, but these cooperative efforts improve our ability to provide technical assistance promptly to meet landowner demand with limited staff. In addi-



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## Process for Restoration

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ducks Unlimited, and others work together with combined funds and technical expertise to complete wetland projects with private landowners. The process for private landowners to follow for a funded construction project are as follows:

1. The landowner contacts one of the conservation partners expressing an interest.

2. A biologist discusses options with the landowner, and determines the suitability of the site for restoration.

3. Landowner signs an agreement indicating interest in the program. The landowner can decline further progress before earthwork begins. The agreement does not become binding until just prior to construction.

4. Site designs will be completed by a biologist for landowner approval.

5. The landowner approves the site design.

6. Projects are usually constructed during the summer and early fall using private contractors.

7. Various agencies reimburse the landowner for up to 90 percent of the project cost. In-kind services can be the landowner's share in many of the programs.





tion, conservation partners pool their financial resources to increase the monies available to install habitat restoration projects on private properties throughout Virginia." According to VDGIF wetlands biologist, David Norris, funding for these projects fluctuates annually. Norris stated, "To date, no projects have been turned down due to lack of funding."

### *Working Together as a Team*

Our most important conservation partners are our landowners. Mac McDannald, of South Boston, Virginia, recently completed a project through Partners For Wildlife. His restoration is on 50 acres of previously timbered low ground adjacent to the Dan River. According to Mr. McDannald, "VDGIF was a pleasure to work with. The Department's design was much nicer than if we had built it ourselves." McDannald's initial inquiry was in December of 1997, and the final agreement was accepted in May of 1998. The project was completed in July of 1998. Once restoration commenced, it took only 7 days to complete. McDannald added, "It left the property a better place. I recommend the program to anyone with the right situation."

The most important step towards wetland restoration begins with a simple phone call. The future of Virginia's wetlands and its wildlife depends on partnership programs with private landowners.

Ms. Costanzo, at the USFWS, added, "Pleasing the landowner by creating high quality, aesthetically attractive wildlife habitat is every-



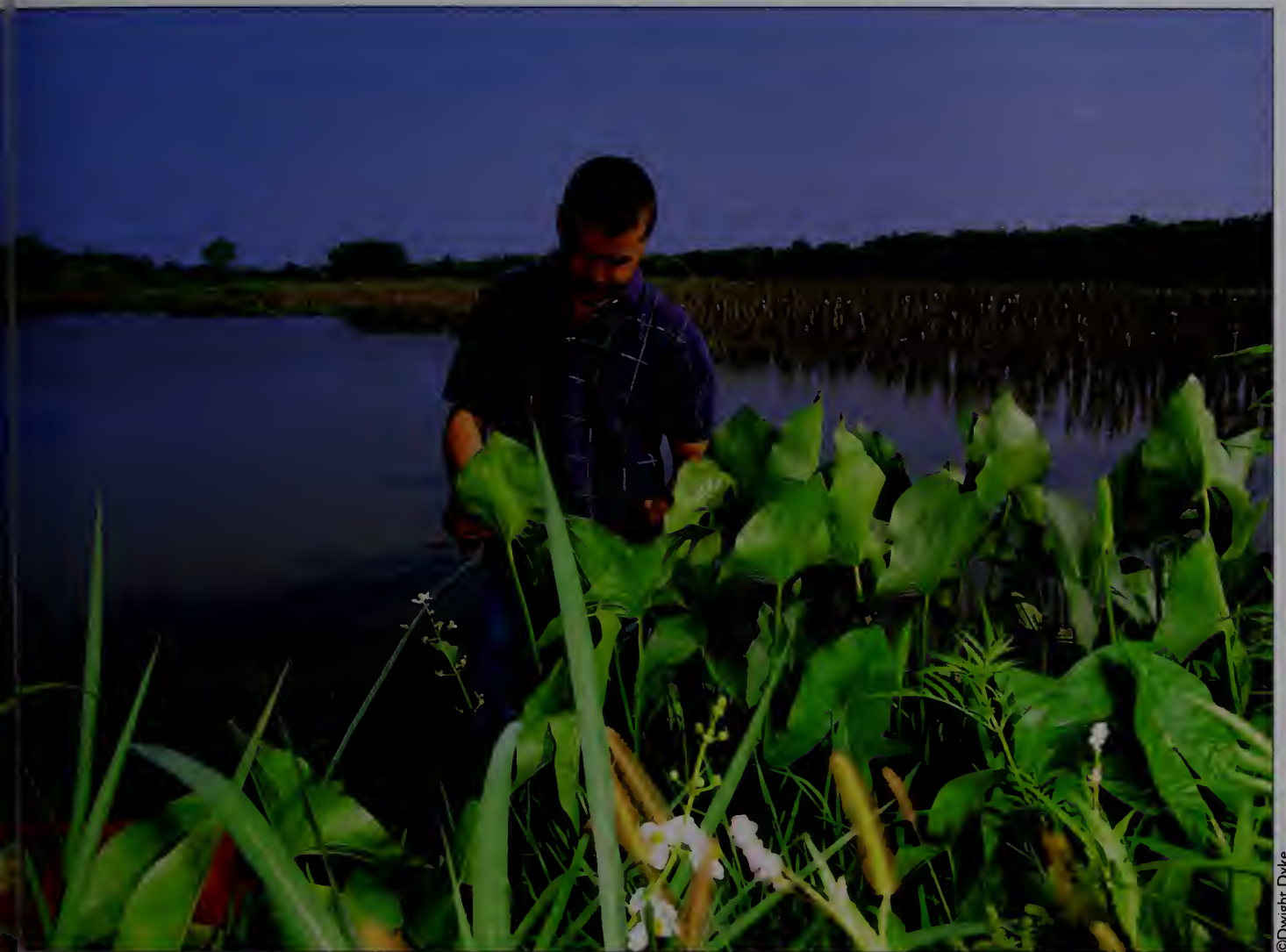
Water is a key ingredient to a healthy wetland. **Above:** Inline and outlet water control structures are two methods for controlling water. With tools like bulldozers and the Malsam Terracer, DGIF biologists can quickly build low-level dikes to contain water.



one's primary goal. It makes sense for all of us to work together as a team to deliver to the landowner the best quality, most cost-effective restoration project possible."

Mr. McDannald's, philosophy is, "Do not take more than you can put back!" The Partners For Wildlife's wetlands restoration program is built upon this mutually beneficial





©Dwight Dyke

principal. It is a winner for all partners and for Virginia's natural resources.

### *How Do I Become A Partner?*

Landowners may contact a variety of sources for their potential project. The most important step is to contact someone! After a phone discussion with any of the partners, a representative will know if the site is a potential candidate for wetland restoration. If a site visit is in order, a biologist will visit with the landowner as soon as possible. Once a good restoration site has been identified, various funding options are discussed with the landowner to assist them in finding the program that best meets their needs. Landowners may call any of the partners, listed to the right, for assistance:

#### **Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**

Wetlands Habitat Biologist  
Williamsburg Regional Office  
Phone: (757) 253-7072  
Fax: (757) 253-4182.

#### **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

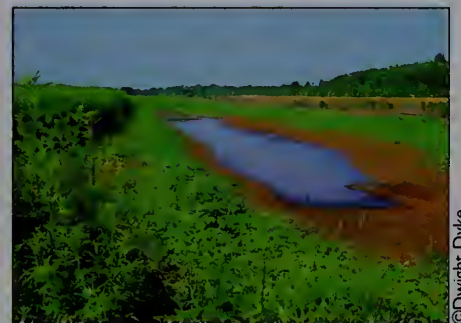
Private Lands Biologist  
Virginia State Field Office  
Gloucester, Virginia  
Phone: (804) 693-6694, extension 124  
Fax: (804) 693-9032.

#### **Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU)**

Program Biologist, Chesapeake Bay  
Restoration Initiative  
Richmond, Virginia  
Phone: (804) 780-1392  
Fax: (804) 648-4011

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

Natural Resources Conservation  
Service Area Office (NRCS).  
See your local phone directory.



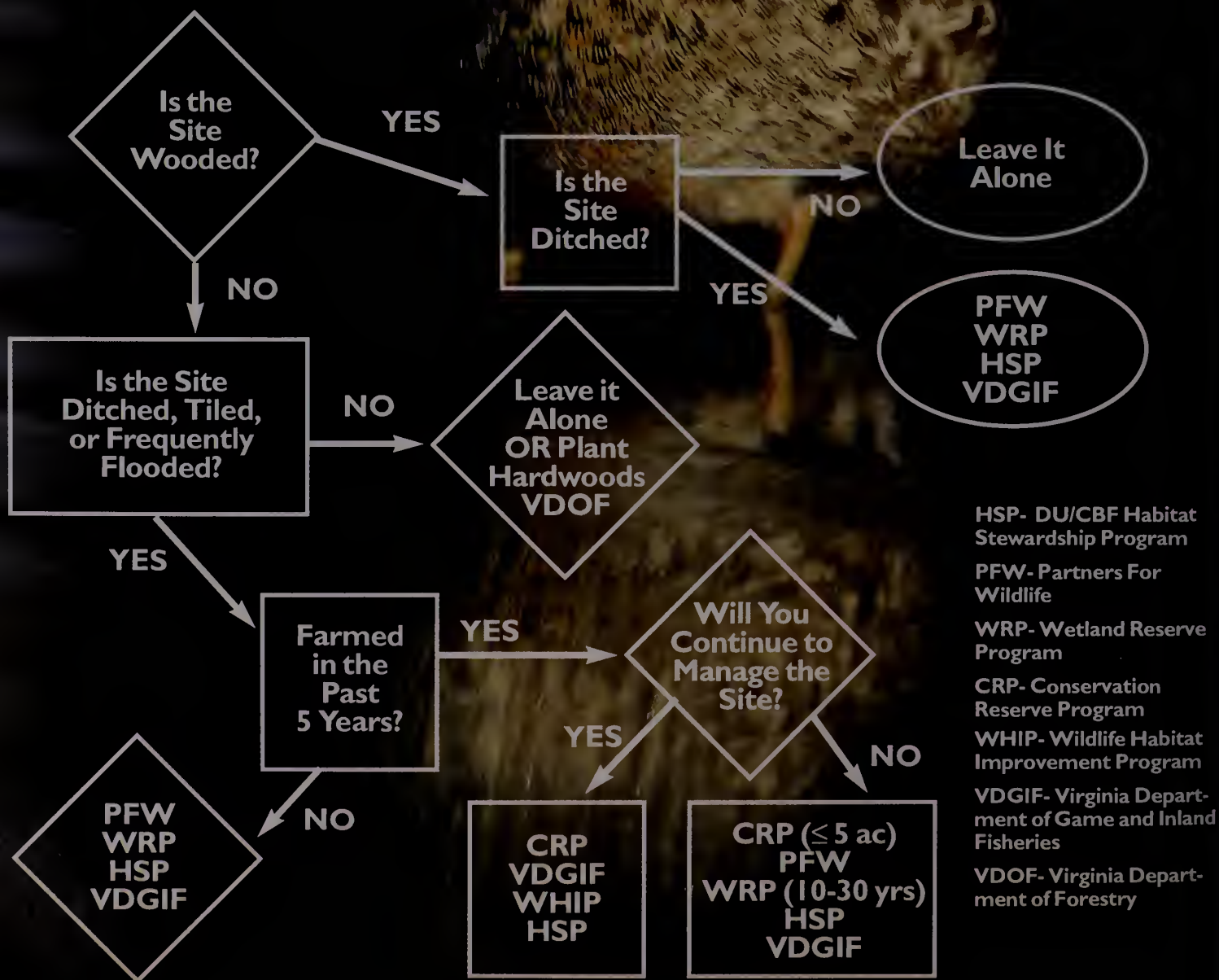
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*James Edmunds inspects his newly restored wetlands in Halifax County. The potential benefits to wildlife are tremendous. Everything from waterfowl, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and even large animals, like deer and turkey, are attracted to sites like these.*



# Are You Interested in Restoring Wetlands on Your Property?

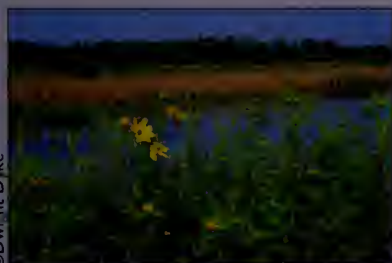
This flow chart will help determine if you have property suitable for restoration and which programs are applicable to your situation.





# Wetland Restoration Program Guide

Program	Lead Agency	% Cost Share Maximum Funding Yearly Rental Payments	Length of Contract	Where Applicable	Sign-up Date	Restrictions
Partners for Wildlife	USFWS	75-90% Not to exceed \$10,000 per applicant; cost share can be in-kind. \$500 per acre limit.	10 yr. minimum varies with practice	Statewide	Continuous	No plant/flood
Conservation Reserve Program - 17th	FSA	50% cost of restoration. Rental payment per acre	10-15 yr.	Statewide	Continuous	Standard hay, graze, & mow restrictions, 5 acre wetland size limit..
Wetland Reserve Program	NRCS	Ten year agreement pays 75% of restoration costs. Thirty year easements pay 75% of the easement value and 75% of the restoration costs. Permanent easements pay the agricultural land value and 100% of restoration costs.	10 yr., 30 yr or permanent easements	Statewide	Continuous	30% of enrolled area may be managed, owner continues to pay taxes.
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program	NRCS	75-90% of total installation costs.	10 yr.	Statewide	Continuous	
DU/CBF Habitat Stewardship Program	DU/CBF	75-90% not to exceed \$10,000 per project \$1000 per acre limit	10 yr.	Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Continuous	No commercial hunting operations. 3 hunting days per week.
Emergency Watershed Protection Program	NRCS	Purchase development and cropping rights \$1200 per acre geographic cap.	Permanent easement	Selected Watersheds	Continuous	Minimum width 35 feet or 1/3 of floodplain, not to exceed 100 feet.
Private Landowner Technical Assistance	VDGIF	N/A	N/A	Statewide	Continuous	None



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DU - Ducks Unlimited  
CBF - Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
USFWS - U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
FSA - Farm Service Agency  
NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service  
VDGIF - Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries





# Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

This publication was funded in part by funds provided by Pittman-Robertson  
Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Project-WE99R.





©King Montgomery, background photo by ©Dwight Dyke

# The Shenandoah Lodge





©Dwight Dyke

# Into the Valley of Fish



©King Montgomery





*(This is the first in a series of informative articles on Virginia inns, lodges, guides/outfitters and other private establishments/services that are devoted to outdoor activities on the streams and rivers and in the fields and forests of the Old Dominion.—Editor)*

by King Montgomery

**A** light mist was slowly rising over the green river, and sounds of Canada geese echoed in the early morning stillness. Somewhere nearby a fish jumped, heard but not seen, and the moving current quickly hid the splash rings. We stepped into the river and moved slowly upstream; the water, cool at first, soon felt wonderful as it caressed our bare legs. Lightweight felt-soled wading boots gripped the bottom providing needed traction for moss-covered rocks that lined this beautiful limestone

stream—the South Fork of the Shenandoah River just outside of Luray.

The river was low and the patches of water stargrass waved their emerald fronds in the champagne-clear water. A gorgeous day, crowned with a bluebird sky punctuated with little marshmallow clouds. And, thankfully, the breeze that was building as the air warmed was too light to adversely affect fly casting. We cast poppers to shoreline cover, near to the stargrass, next to boulders and over the folded rock ledges, and into eddies wherever they occurred. We caught smallmouth bass and various sunfishes; all the fish were beautifully marked and very healthy.

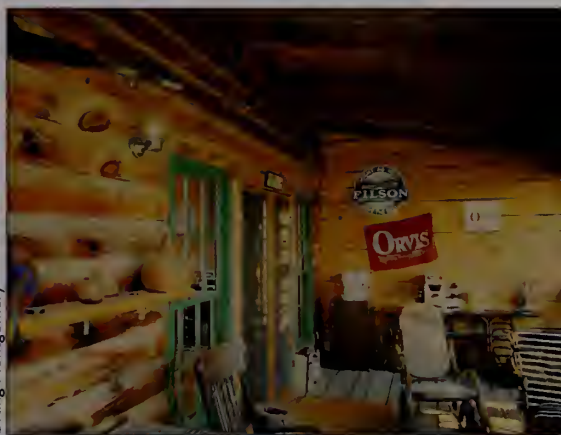
Steve Tenney, the head guide at the nearby *Shenandoah Lodge*, slowly approached a tree that had fallen somewhere upstream and washed down to lodge against the bank. He crept low, Indian-style, his white hat slung onto his back by the neck strap so it wouldn't reflect the sunlight.

*Shenandoah Lodge head guide Steve Tenney (right) ties on a fly he hopes will be fly du jour.*

©King Montgomery



©King Montgomery



He made a few false casts with the vintage honey-colored cane rod at a different angle than the one he would use to place the fly, so as not to spook the fish he suspected was stationed under the tree. It was a how-to clinic in stalking, presentation, and patience.

Steve's popper softly alighted, drifted enticingly downstream and, when it barely brushed the rootball, was engulfed by a smallmouth bass with an attitude. The fish was fought fairly, gently netted, admired, photographed, and released. A smallie



or two like this one can make your day.

After leisurely working our way back to the car, which was now surrounded by a large group of teenagers preparing to float the river with bright orange float tubes, we returned to the *Shenandoah Lodge* for an angler's lunch, and a brief rest before heading off for more fishing.

The *Shenandoah Lodge*, located just above the Shenandoah River about 5 miles north of Luray, is ideally located and suited for outdoor activities including fishing, hunting, canoeing, hiking, tubing, wildlife

of the hill only in winter after the leaves have gone.

The Lodge blends so well with the vegetation, you can't photograph it from the front. Small, rustic, and very comfortable, the Lodge has two bedrooms off the main living area, and others available in nearby cabins. Meals are provided around the large table in the kitchen; you can relax with coffee in front of the big stone fireplace or on the wrap-around porch. In addition to providing accommodations, the Lodge also offers angling packages that include lodging, all meals, fly casting

angling guides and instructors. Steve, a partner in the Thornton River Fly Shop in Sperryville, is an accomplished fly angler with over 40 years of experience. A cane rod aficionado, Steve loves a well-presented fly and a fine fishing day; you will find his enthusiasm contagious. There are plenty of good fishing opportunities since the Lodge has private access to stretches of the river and along several premier trout streams nearby. Although the emphasis of the *Shenandoah Lodge* is on fly fishing, you won't be turned away if you bring spinning tackle and lures; the choice is yours.



©King Montgomery

watching and photography. It is also a choice spot from which to view and enjoy fall foliage. Set into a wooded hillside, the Lodge offers a wonderful view of the Blue Ridge Mountains across the Luray Valley, also known as Page Valley, to the east. You can see the river at the foot

and fishing instruction, and guided fishing for smallmouth bass and trout. It is an authorized Orvis dealer and proprietor Charlie Walsh keeps a small stock of quality fly fishing gear, equipment, and clothing for sale to his guests.

Steve Tenney heads an able staff of

*The great room of the Lodge is a large, airy, comfortable place to eat a meal, enjoy an after-dinner cordial, or sip a morning coffee.*

We devoted the afternoon to pursuing native brook trout, though we could just as well have gone to a number of streams and small rivers for brown and rainbow trout. The Shenandoah National Park and the surrounding terrain on both sides of the Blue Ridge comprise the largest area of wild trout habitat in the eastern United States. One of the many great things about fishing for brook trout is visiting the beautiful places they live in. The Shenandoah Valley is no exception; diverse in flora, fauna, and history, this part of Virginia is rich in all it has to offer.



narrowing it down by half but still leaving extensive variety and opportunities. Well, I thought, I'll just have to return to this amazing valley—into the valley of fish—more often.

*Freelance outdoor writer/photographer King Montgomery is a frequent contributor to Virginia Wildlife. He lives about 87 minutes away from the Shenandoah Valley in Annandale.*

**The Shenandoah Lodge**  
100 Grand View Drive  
Luray, Virginia 22835  
1-800-866-9958



Between the Shenandoah National Park with its Skyline Drive, and the George Washington National Forest, this part of the Shenandoah Valley is home to about a 100 species of trees, and over 200 species of birds. And it hosts one of the densest populations of black bears in the country. White-tailed deer and wild turkey, ducks and geese, and hawks and owls all thrive in this natural paradise just a little over 90 minutes from the Nation's Capital.

My map in front of me, I drew a circle with a 10-mile radius using the *Shenandoah Lodge* as the center. I leaned back, pondering the Virginia gazetteer, and quickly realized I had encircled more good angling water than I would ever be likely to fish. Again, contemplating the map, I shortened the radius by five miles,

www.shenlodge.com  
e-mail: flyfish@shentel.net  
Charlie Walsh, Proprietor  
Tanya Caughey, Manager

**Shenandoah River Outfitters, Inc.**  
canoe, kayak or tube the river.  
www.shenandoah-river.com  
1-800-6CANOE2

**Shenandoah Valley Travel Association**  
For information on activities in the area. (540) 740-3132.

**Virginia Department of Tourism**  
For information, maps and travel guide. 1-800-847-4882.

**Luray Caverns**  
A mile long underground tour of geologic wonders. (540) 743-6551.

## Civil War Sites

The Shenandoah Valley was the "breadbasket of the Confederacy," the principal source of provisions for Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. The Valley was also a major avenue of approach and corridor of attack for both sides from 1861 to 1865; the scene of some 112 engagements, mostly in 1862 when Stonewall Jackson owned the Valley, and in 1864 when it was laid to waste by Union forces.

Many of the battles and skirmishes took place along what is now Interstate 81, and the following sites are not far from the Shenandoah Lodge:

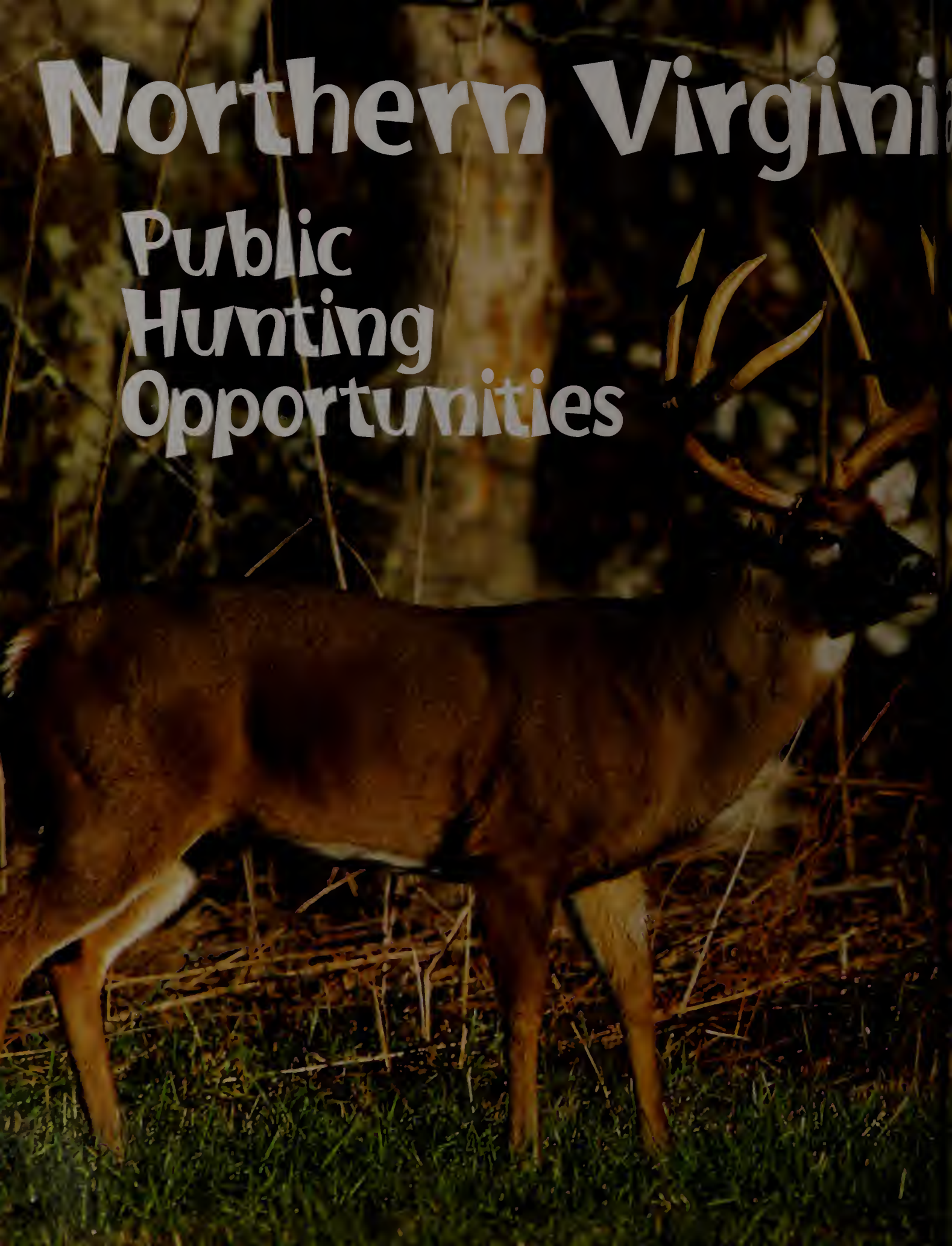
**Edinburg**—almost 30 skirmishes were fought here. In 1864, parts of the town were burned by marauding Union forces under General Phil Sheridan.

**Mount Jackson**—the western end of the Manassas Gap Railroad, a supply lifeline for Southern forces. The area traded hands numerous times during the war.

**New Market**—much of the original battlefield is intact and two wonderful museums are nearby. Walk the line of march where 257 teenage cadets from the Virginia Military Institute assaulted the Federal lines, and helped the Confederates eject the Union troops from the region.

**Harrisonburg**—a major crossroads, the town was the site of skirmishes and a battle in 1862 where Confederate cavalry commander, General Turner Ashby, was killed.





# Northern Virginia

## Public Hunting Opportunities



## Suburban Washington, D.C. residents can find great hunting close to home.

by David Hart

**A**bout ten years ago, Bob Henson counted nearly 200 cars in the parking lots of the C. F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on opening day of deer season. He figured the parking areas at the G. Richard Thompson WMA were just as crowded.

Thankfully, the crowds have thinned somewhat at those two northern Virginia public hunting areas. Last year's opening day car counts found fewer vehicles in the WMA's parking lots. Henson, who oversees four public hunting areas, tallied 113 vehicles at Phelps. That may still seem like an army of orange-clad hunters, but consider this: Phelps WMA consists of over 4,500 acres of superb wildlife habitat. Open fields planted with a variety of wildlife-attracting foods, along with thousands of acres of mature hardwoods, riparian habitat and overgrown areas, offer countless opportunities for deer and small game hunters to spread out and find a solitary piece of ground.

At the Thompson WMA, hunters have nearly 4,000 acres of densely-wooded mountainside to hunt. No roads cut through the middle of the area, so that creates plenty of out-of-the-way sections that receive light hunting pressure.

Despite the high number of hunters, both areas give up plenty of deer. Henson said about 35 bucks are harvested at Phelps during the two-week gun season, including a few nice ones. The same is true for Thompson, which is located at the northern end of Fauquier County.

"I can also tell you that plenty of bucks survive the season at both areas," insisted Henson, who lives



©David Hart

*Northern Virginia is home to several million people and the demand for places to hunt is great. With a little planning you will find good hunting may be closer than you think.*

on the Phelps WMA. "I know of one that's a 12-pointer, maybe even a 14, that's living on the property. I've also been seeing a six-pointer that's got to be the largest six-pointer I've ever seen."

He added that the turkey population is increasing, thanks in large part to the restructuring of the fall season dates. Small game opportunities are abundant, as well.

"I've seen quite a few turkey broods on the area and the adjoining property, so this should be a good season," said Henson. "I'm really surprised how little pressure we get for the fall turkey season. Spring gets hunted a little harder, but there are still plenty of great opportunities for spring gobbler hunters."

He noted that gypsy moths did serious damage to some of the mature hardwoods on the Thompson WMA, but in some ways, that helped wildlife.

"That's going to affect the acorn crop, which will hurt the deer somewhat, but grouse and turkeys thrive in the underbrush that grows in the gypsy moth-damaged areas," said Henson. "Grouse hunting should be real good this year."

Another great public hunting area close to Northern Virginia is Quantico Marine Corps Base, located in Prince William, Fauquier and Stafford counties. Access is controlled, so hunters have plenty of



room to spread out and hunt without interference from others.

"The base consists of about 46,000 huntable acres, although parts of the base are closed to hunting at certain times," explained Tim Stamps, who is head of Quantico's fish, wildlife and agronomy section. "You have to remember that this is a military installation first and hunting is a secondary activity. There have been times when just about all of it is open and times when nearly all of the base is closed."

Quantico is divided into 38 training areas that average about 1,200 acres and hunters can select any unit that is open, or that isn't already filled with other hunters. Each area is restricted to one hunter per 75 acres, so smaller areas fill up fast, particularly on weekends, holidays and during the early part of the regular firearms season.

Another important point to remember is that active military personnel receive preferential treatment over civilians. It's not uncommon, particularly early in the season, for civilians to be shut out of the hunting areas completely. Quantico hunting managers have set up an early checkout system that allows hunters to call the day before and reserve a spot.

Typically, hunters tag about 800 to 900 deer per year, most during the regular firearms season. About half of those are bucks and a few of those sport impressive antlers. Hunters are limited to shotguns or muzzleloaders, although there is no special early muzzleloader season, and buckshot is prohibited.

"The best advice I would give someone who's never hunted the base is to get to know three or four areas pretty well," suggested Stamps. "All have good deer hunting, but there's a good chance the

area you want to hunt is either full or closed for the day. It's a good idea to have a backup plan."

Like Phelps and Thompson, Quantico has an outstanding turkey population that has remained stable, said Stamps. Spring gobbler hunters do exceptionally well here—last year, hunters killed a record 78 birds—thanks in large part to the controlled access.

Small game opportunities

abound, and rabbits and squirrels are scattered throughout the base. Quail numbers have dropped significantly and hunters are limited to two birds per day.

"We do some fall plantings of clover and wheat and we do some prescribed burning," said Stamps. "There are lots of areas that have been cut over, also. Some of those areas offer good small game opportunities."

Another great wildlife management area contains over 10,000 acres of mature oaks, poplars and hemlocks. It is nestled against the east slope of the Shenandoah National Park. Rapidan WMA offers hunters what may be the best crack at a trophy deer on public lands close to Northern Virginia. Because hunting



©David Hart



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is not allowed within the national park, bucks have a chance to grow impressive antlers.

Rapidan is a little farther away from the suburban sprawl of Northern Virginia, and the area is divided into eight tracts. That makes finding the public hunting areas a little tough, but with a little homework and a day or so of scouting, hunters can find a great spot to wait for deer. The area also has good populations of bear, grouse and turkeys.

## Beating the Crowds

Let's face it. In a region with several million people, Northern Virginia's public hunting areas can get crowded—real crowded. There's no other way to describe it. There are

ways to beat those crowds on public lands, however. It just takes a little extra time, an ounce of creativity and maybe even a few vacation days away from the office.

One of the best tactics to find deer and other game on these areas is to go as far away from the nearest parking area or trail as possible. Not every hunter is willing to hoof the extra miles to reach such out-of-the-way places, so the deer see fewer hunters and are a little less spooky. The only negative spin to such a tactic comes with success. If you get a buck a mile or more from your vehicle, pray for a friend when it comes time to drag it out of there. Small game hunters, of course, don't have to deal with the problem of getting a big animal out of the woods, but they still have to make that long hike back to the parking lot.

At Quantico, hunters must be back at the check station no later than one hour after the end of legal shooting time or they face expulsion. Base hunt managers don't fool around when it comes to enforcing the rules, and give little credence to excuses. Thankfully, they realize that not everyone can lug a deer back to their truck and make it to the check station by the deadline, so they offer some flexibility.

"All a hunter needs to do is to come back by the cut-off time and let us know he or she has a deer down and we will take that into account," said Stamps.

Another great tactic, particularly on state-owned land, is to hunt the perimeter of the property. Thankfully, deer can't read "posted" signs and don't pay attention to land ownership. They do, however, quickly become accustomed to areas that are heavily-traveled by humans, and they tend to avoid them. Just remember to respect property lines.

Weekdays are always a good time to hit public land, particularly dur-

ing the middle of the week. Tim Stamps said military training activity is usually at its lowest on Mondays and Fridays on Quantico, so more areas tend to be open. Bob Henson said pressure drops significantly Monday through Friday on the region's wildlife management areas.

Hunters from the suburbs of Washington, D.C. don't have to drive three hours to find quality hunting opportunities. With a little extra work, a variety and abundance of game can be found close to home.

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*David Hart is an outdoor writer for various Northern Virginia papers and a avid hunter.*

## Getting There

C. F. Phelps WMA is approximately 60 to 90 minutes from the suburbs of Northern Virginia and is located close to Routes 17 and 29 in southern Fauquier County.

G. Richard Thompson WMA is also 60 to 90 minutes from the city of Alexandria and Fairfax and Arlington Counties. It is located just north of Interstate 66 near the town of Linden in Fauquier County.

Rapidan WMA can be reached via State Route 231 in Madison and is about two hours from most areas in Northern Virginia. The extra distance helps alleviate hunting pressure.

"A Guide to Virginia's Wildlife Management Areas" is available for \$5.00. Write to: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104.

Quantico Marine Corps Base is in Stafford, Fauquier and Prince William Counties and is less than an hour from most areas of Northern Virginia. The base can be reached either from Interstate 95 or Route 234. For information, call (703) 784-5523.

*DGIF wildlife management areas and military facilities are home to many wildlife species. Deer, turkey, quail, squirrels and other small animals will turn any hunting trip into a wildlife watcher's dream.*







# Journal

## Believe It or Not Bezoar Stones in Deer

by George A. Gehrken

The clank of a rock in the gut tub of a deer last November 1997 stretched my memory. At least 52 years had passed since I had heard about deer stones during a Game Management class at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI & SU), now known as Virginia Tech. I could not even remember what they were called. If my guest had not shot the deer at an acute angle, I would not be writing this article.

When I arrived home from hunting in Georgia, I called my friend Bob Duncan, of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. He remembered the name bezoar stone but had no further references. Next, for more information on bezoars, I contacted Mrs. Beverly Worsham, at the Walter Cecil Rawls Library, in Courtland, Virginia. After about three weeks and many blind roads, she found some interesting data on bezoars on the Internet.

The word bezoar comes from the Persian word "Pad-zohr," meaning counter-poison (antidote). The stones are found in the stomachs of goats, gazelles, llamas, chamas, deer, cattle, and other ungulates.

Bezoars were believed to possess magical properties, and, at one time, were worth ten times their weight in gold. Bezoars were supposed to change color when dipped in poisoned wine and other poisoned drinks. These stones were priceless

possessions of ancient royalty and often worn around the neck. Bezoars were also taken internally (assumed ground pieces) as a poison antidote. If one is interested in a special treasure, one may buy a llama bezoar in an ornate gold holder for \$6,800 (recorded in a book title *Atocha and Other Treasure Salvages*).

Still, in search of more information I called Dr. Gerald Cross, Virginia Extension Wildlife Biologist at VPI. I didn't hear from him for sev-



eral days. He called and told me that my old professor at VPI, Dr. Henry S. Mosby, and Charles Cushwa had written a paper, "Deer Madstone or Bezoars," in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*, Volume 33, Number 2, April 1969. I asked Dr. Cross how he found Dr. Mosby's paper. He said "I asked Dr. Patrick Scanlon, he knows everything." This journal, as well as all journals 1945-1997, was in my library. I just didn't know where or how to find it.

Dr. Mosby learned from other writers that the madstone in deer are not common, with one found in every 500 stomachs at the Piedmont

National Wildlife Refuge and one found in 1,500 deer in the Southeast. They are found in all ruminants or "cud chewing" animals. "Most of these stones are found within the forestomachs (rumen, reticulum, and omasum) rather than the true stomach (abomasum)..." True bezoars are minerals formed around a central nucleus. Dr. Mosby gave two examples—one bezoar was found around a 22 calibre bullet and another around a pecan. The three stones

that Dr. Mosby gave the measurements of were approximately: 2" X 1 1/4", 2" x 1 1/8", and 1 5/8" x 1/18 "inches. The weights in the same order were 2, 1.3, and 1.1 ounces. The 1997 madstone we found measured 2 1/8 X 1 5/8 X 1.0 inches and weighed 2.27 ounces. This bezoar was grey-white with green lines when taken from the deer. After one month exposed to air and handling, it turned a putty color.

Dr. Mosby had stones #1 and #2 sawed longitudinally. The nucleus of #1 (a piece of quartz) was surrounded by five light and dark rings that resembled annual tree growth rings. The light rings were determined to be brushite, the dark rings were determined to be newberyite.

It is such a shame that more use is not made of the viscera of deer in modern times because hundreds of these very interesting stones are buried, wasted in landfills, and disposed of in the woods. If you should hear a clank in the tub, dig out the bezoar. You will have a stone, not worth \$6,800 but a one-of-a-kind treasure. □

*George Gehrken is a retired VDGIF biologist.*



# NOVEMBER AFIELD

by Jack Randolph

The fellows who keep a close eye on the water temperature in the Chesapeake Bay and the ocean say that on October 1 the water should be close to 70 degrees. By November 1 it should hit 60 degrees and by the first of December it will be close to 50. I kept a close eye on the water temperatures last autumn and guess what? They're right. I also learned that the water temperatures in our larger reservoirs follow just about the same pattern.

Oddly, it seems that the closer the water temperature drops to 50 degrees the striped bass being caught are larger. This holds true with freshwater landlocked stripers as well as it does in the bay. Last year at Lake Anna, for example, they enjoyed a fine run of striped bass most of the summer and all through the fall, yet the bigger ones didn't show up until the water chilled down.

While November is a fine fishing month, it is really a hunting month. One thing that sets this November apart is the amount of duck hunting we can enjoy this year. The last two weeks of the month are open to the duck hunters, if only the weather is chilly enough to send some birds our way. Of course, November is also the month of the black powder hunter and the bowhunter. Although most small game seasons are open many hunters prefer to hold off hunting until the deer season is over.

When we think of last fall and winter we can't help but remember that it was very mild, not exactly what the doctor ordered for hunting. Yet, if you remember, the third Monday in November, opening day of the firearms deer season, dawned



right nippy and, depending where you were, it didn't warm up much all day. For the eastern hunter and his dogs the chilly weather was a welcome change from the sweltering opening days of deer season that affected out-of-condition hunters and hounds alike. There's no telling what the opener will be like this year, but let's think cold.

Looking over some of the action that took place in the Old Dominion last November, here are a few "heads up" that may put you on some action this season:

- About November 20 last year there was a terrific run of striped bass and big bluefish along the Virginia Beach surf.
- Crappie bit well in late Novem-

ber in the barge pits at the Chesterfield County Recreation Area in Dutch Gap.

- Flounder action is good throughout the month.

- Big blue catfish turned on in the James and Appomattox rivers late in the month.

- Landlocked striped bass bit well in Lake Anna, Lake Chesdin, Smith Mountain Lake, and Buggs Island Lake.

One of the unfortunate things about last year was the number of tree stand-related hunting accidents exceeded the number of firearm accidents. Always wear a safety belt. Even a short fall from a tree stand can result in serious or permanent injury. □





# On The Water

by Kathy Gillikin, Boating Education Instructor

## Never Too Clean

Winter is the perfect time to get your boat out of the water to do some major cleaning and necessary repairs during the boating season downtime. Boats can get very dirty from algae, scum, salt residue and barnacles. It's always a good idea to wash your boat regularly, but washing it at least twice a year will remove the chalking (dulling) caused by the sun.

Fiberglass boats have an outer layer called a gel coat that is a protective resin. It gives the boat its waxy look and color. Dish soap or car soap and fresh water work nicely on the gel coat without harm. Use a soft sponge or mitt to clean flat surfaces and a scrub brush to clean the decking, cracks and protruding parts. It is essential to wash the metal parts on saltwater boats since salt causes electrolytic corrosion (the green stuff). Scrub brushes with long handles make it easy to reach difficult areas.

To remove scum or algae, try straight or diluted bleach. Spray cleaners with bleach, such as those for the kitchen or bathroom, are also effective. Fishing boats sometimes have an odor from keeping bait in the live wells. Undiluted bleach poured into the wells will remove the odor. Be sure to rinse the wells thoroughly so the bleach won't cause harm to future bait. Bleach is great for plastic or laminates, but is corrosive to metal. Avoid getting bleach on the engine, cleats, propeller, or other metal parts. Bleach will take color from your clothes and eat through some fabrics and skin. Wear old clothes, rubber gloves, eye protection and footwear to protect yourself.

Never use abrasive cleaners, such as powders, on dulled fiberglass because it will eat through the gel coat and ruin any chance of shine. Instead apply a specially formulated fiberglass cleanser to remove the chalking and restore the shine. Cleaners such as Soft-Scrub will not destroy the gel coat.

Remember, many cleansers will

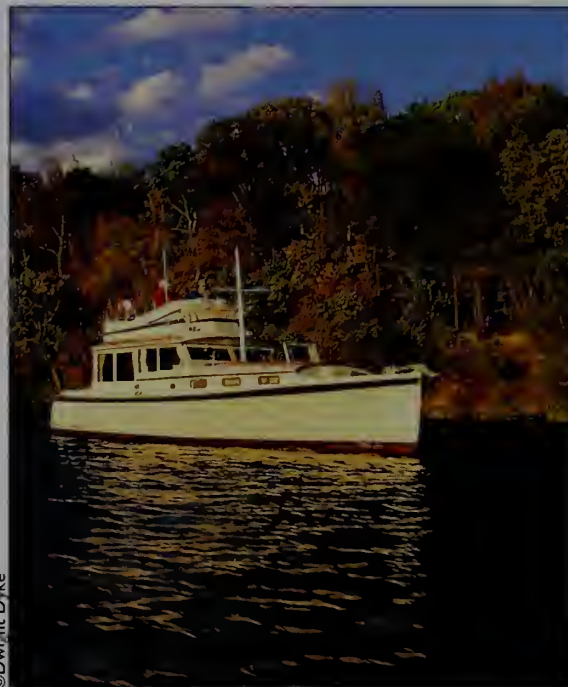
gel coat and the boat will need to be painted again. The easiest way to remove small barnacles is with a bleach solution and scrub brush. In warm water, it is best to clean your boat's hull of barnacles every ten days, before the growth gets too large. Larger boats that must be kept in the water should be scraped periodically under water. Small barnacles will die and fall off once the boat is allowed to dry completely.

### Antifoulants

If the idea of scraping your boat's hull under water is not pleasant, then you will like this idea. For boats that must be left in the water, approved antifoulant paint can be applied to the bottom of the boats before they are launched. Antifoulants contain poisons (usually copper) that eliminate the attachment of marine organisms, such as barnacles.

There are two types of antifoulants: leaching paints and ablative paints. Leaching paints allow the outer surface to stay the same while the copper leaches through the paint. Ablative paints wear away in layers to expose new copper until it is all worn away.

It is best to apply antifoulants annually. The first step is to sand (fine-grit) the boat. A coat of gel-coat primer should be applied next. Make sure your gel-coat primer is compatible with your antifoulant. Then apply the antifoulant. You will need about a gallon of antifoulant paint for a 24-foot boat. Antifoulants are expensive at \$75 - \$100 per gallon. □



cause harm to plant and animal life. It is advisable to use biodegradable cleaners and to wash your boat on shore, away from possible waterway contamination. We need to keep phosphates out of our waterways.

Barnacles are another story. Once the barnacles grow to the size of a dime, they are very difficult to remove. The only way to remove them is by scraping or power-sanding the boat's hull. Sanding will remove the



# Naturally Wild

by Spike Knuth

## Bonaparte's Gull

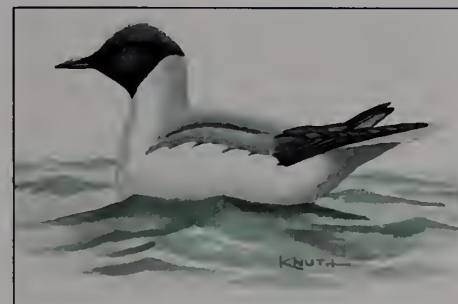
The Bonaparte's gull is smaller than the more common ring-billed, laughing and herring gulls of Virginia's waters in winter. It actually looks more like a tern with quicker wing beats and bill pointed downward. Its call is a sharp "tee-er" or "chee-er," which is also tern-like.

This gull breeds in forested regions near water in the spruce-edged lakes of Canada, although its range extends to the northern shores of the Great Lakes. In spring and summer it sports a dark, slate-gray, almost black head, with red feet and bill. It nests near the many lakes of Canada, usually in trees.

With the coming of autumn, they migrate southeasterly from James Bay through the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Coast and the Chesapeake Bay. At this time, they lose their dark head and show only a dark cheek patch with possibly some dark markings around the eyes. Its back is pearl-gray and it has white underparts. Its wings are white on the foreparts of the primaries with black tips

on the trailing edges. Immature or first year birds will have dark bands on their tails, dark brown marks on their backs and black and white patterns on their primaries.

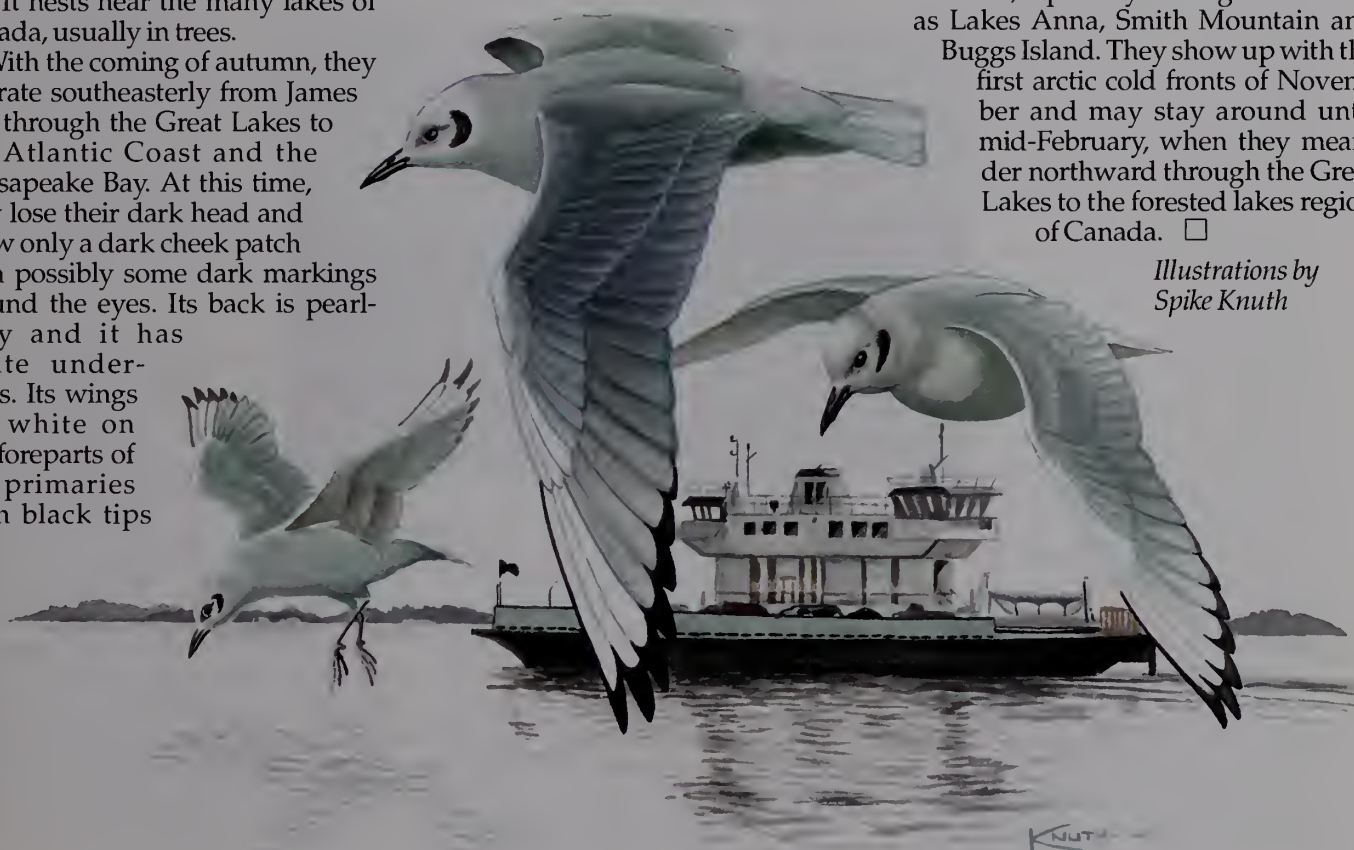
Its flight is often described as "bounding," as it flies very buoyantly, feeding in small loose flocks or small groups. With feet dangling and bills pointed down, they resemble terns as they feed on mainly small fish, aquatic or marine insects, worms and crustaceans. A flock is quickly recognizable from a distance by the flashing of the white forewings. On the water, it sits high,



often twirling or twisting from side to side as it feeds.

Look for Bonaparte's gull on the James River near Jamestown, or on other tidal rivers, but it favors freshwater lakes, especially the larger ones such as Lakes Anna, Smith Mountain and Buggs Island. They show up with the first arctic cold fronts of November and may stay around until mid-February, when they meander northward through the Great Lakes to the forested lakes region of Canada. □

*Illustrations by  
Spike Knuth*







# Photo Tips

by Lynda Richardson

## Rush Hour

**I**t was morning rush hour. Everyone was up early and looking for a place to park. The traffic was steady and the cool air was filled with a constant honking that seemed to meld into a single sound. I was at a standstill. Curled up on the driver's side of my truck, I had pulled over on the side of the road to watch the chaos. It amazed me that so many could be up and active this early in the morning. Where were they traveling?

Every winter thousands of geese and other birds travel through Virginia on the annual migration to winter feeding grounds. Depending on the weather, some birds travel only as far as Virginia while others head for more southerly vacations in South America. Seeing 20,000 snow or Canada geese landing on the rivers and cornfields throughout Virginia can be a sight to behold. It can also offer some awesome photographic possibilities.

When I photograph migratory waterfowl, nearly 95 percent of the time I use some sort of blind. A car blind is perfect when traveling the roads through national parks or wildlife refuges. The birds are used to passing, pausing or parked vehicles and don't seem to mind cameras hanging from the windows. Just keep your voice low, avoid quick movements, and don't try to get out of the car. The birds might seem comfortable but once you leave the concealment of a car, you may send them flying! Upon occasion, I have tried to leave my vehicle to move closer or lower my

shooting angle. Time and time again, it always seemed to scare my subjects. In a vehicle, we don't look human.

Some refuges and national parks have observation or hunting blinds. Before you visit a park, call and check if one is available for your use as a photographer. Be sure to scout the blind before sitting in it all day. I watch for how close the waterfowl will approach the blind so I know what lenses to bring. Do birds visit this blind in the morning only? Is the position of the blind for evening shoots only? It would be a shame to waste a day in a blind and have nothing to show for it when a simple

Photo Tips "How To Hide Your Hide," June 1992) When choosing your blind site, first scout the area to see when and where the birds are concentrating. Then, decide if you want to capture subjects in morning or evening light. Try to pick a location which can be approached easily and one where the birds are least likely to see you enter the blind. If no one is hunting the area, bait such as cracked corn or millet can be thrown in front of the blind to attract more birds. Just make sure you don't get too carried away flinging grain. Bait should be placed in front of the blind within the range of your camera lenses.

As winter approaches, be sure to check out nature's early morning and afternoon traffic reports. Not only will it offer you spectacular opportunities for photographs, it will give new meaning to the phrase "rush hour." Good luck! □

### News You Can Use

Don't miss the upcoming 28th Waterfowl Festival in Easton, Maryland on November 13-15. There will be lots of great

paintings, sculpture and photography by artists from around the country. Be sure to check out the photography exhibit in the Talbot County Historical Society Auditorium. (I'll be there!) Hours are Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday 10am to 5pm. For more information please call: (410) 822-4567 or check out their web site at: <http://www.waterfowlfest.org>.



©Lynda Richardson

scouting mission could help you plan your shooting schedule for maximum picture possibilities.

Another option for photographing waterfowl is to build your own blind. If you or a friend own water-side property along a migratory route, you have the perfect opportunity. You could make a permanent blind of wood and brush or use a portable blind which you set up for short periods of time. (Check out

## Venison—Always a Treat for the Holidays

**M**any times we hunters overlook the lesser deer cuts. These would include the ribs, liver, heart and neck. Since I enjoy cooking and eating all four of these, friends keep me supplied, especially deer hunter Lee Carter of Williamsburg.

This past hunting season Lee brought us 2 ¾ pounds of boned neck meat all in one piece. You would be surprised how tender the meat is from the neck. For the three of us, I used only half of the meat, but you can use all of it in the recipe which follows. Just cut the roast into several pieces so they fit into your crockpot. When done, these pieces can be sliced easily.

### Menu

*Cheddar Shortbread Appetizers*  
*Beer And Onion Venison Neck Roast*  
*Peas And Snow Peas*  
*Bing Cherry Molded Salad*  
*Cranberry-Apple Dessert*

### Cheddar Shortbread Appetizers

2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese  
 1 ½ cups flour  
 ⅔ teaspoon dry mustard  
 Ground red pepper to taste  
 ½ cup butter melted

Toss together cheese, flour, mustard and red pepper. Mix in melted butter. Work mixture with your hands to form a dough. Add 1 tablespoon water if dough feels too dry. On a floured surface, roll out half the dough to a thickness between ⅛ and ¼-inch. Cut out with cookie cutters and place on ungreased baking sheets. Repeat with remaining dough. Bake in a preheated 375° oven until lightly browned on bottom, 10 to 12 minutes. Remove to a rack to cool. Makes 36.

### Beer and Onion Venison Neck Roast

1 2 to 3 pound venison neck roast  
 1 tablespoon vegetable oil  
 Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
 2 tablespoons butter or margarine  
 4 medium sweet onions, sliced  
 1 teaspoon minced fresh garlic  
 ½ cup double-strength beef broth, canned or homemade  
 ½ cup dark beer  
 1 tablespoon light brown sugar  
 1 tablespoon Dijon Honey mustard  
 1 tablespoon cider vinegar  
 2 tablespoons cornstarch dissolved in 2 tablespoons cold water

Cut the neck roast into 2 or 3 large pieces to fit into a 3 ½-quart crockpot. In a large skillet, heat the oil and add the venison and cook, turning once, until browned. Transfer to a plate; season with salt and pepper and set aside. Add the butter to the skillet and melt. Add the onions and cook, stirring often, until lightly browned. Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute. Remove from heat and stir in the beef broth, beer, brown sugar, mustard and vinegar. Transfer to the crockpot. Stack the venison roast pieces on top of the onion mixture. Cover and cook on LOW heat 7 to 9 hours or until the meat is very tender. With a slotted spoon, transfer the meat and the onions to a platter and cover with foil to keep warm. In a medium saucepan, bring the cooking liquid to a simmer and gradually stir in the cornstarch mixture, cooking until a desired thickness is reached. Slice meat and serve with sauce over hot noodles. Serves 6.

### Peas and Snow Peas

2 pkgs. (10 ounces each) frozen tender tiny peas  
 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted  
 1 pkg. (6 ounces) frozen snow pea pods

½ teaspoon dried whole dillweed  
 Garlic powder to taste

Saute tiny peas in butter in a large skillet 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add snow pea pods and cook over medium heat 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in dillweed and garlic powder and cook 2 minutes. Makes 8 servings.

### Bing Cherry Molded Salad

1 can (16 ounces) pitted dark sweet cherries  
 1 package (3 ounces) cherry gelatin  
 1 cup Coca-Cola, diet or regular  
 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice  
 1 package (3 ounces) cream cheese  
 ½ cup coarsely chopped walnuts

Drain cherries, reserving juice. In a saucepan, bring ¾ cup juice to a boil. Add gelatin and stir until dissolved. Remove from heat and stir in Coca-Cola and lemon juice. Chill until gelatin mounds slightly when dropped from a spoon. Cut cream cheese into very small pieces and fold into gelatin with nuts and cherries. Pour into an 8 x 8 inch dish. Chill until set. Makes 6 servings.

### Cranberry-Apple Dessert

3 cups chopped apples  
 1 cup white sugar  
 2 cups raw cranberries, chopped in food processor  
 ½ cup brown sugar  
 ½ stick of butter or margarine  
 ½ cup flour  
 1 cup regular quick cooking oatmeal  
 ½ cup chopped pecans

Combine apples, white sugar and chopped cranberries. Put into a 9 x 1 3-inch baking dish. In a bowl, combine brown sugar, butter, flour and oatmeal. Cut butter into small pieces using a pastry blender or a paring knife. Stir in chopped pecans. Spread this over the fruit mixture. Bake for 1 hour in a 300° oven or until fruit tests tender. □

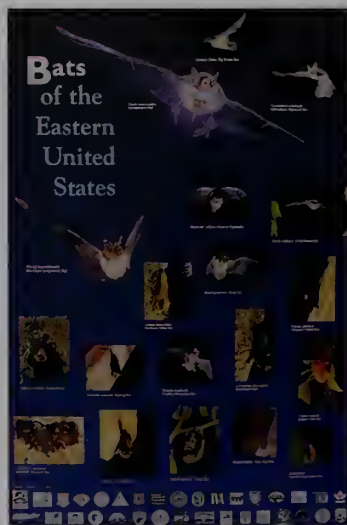


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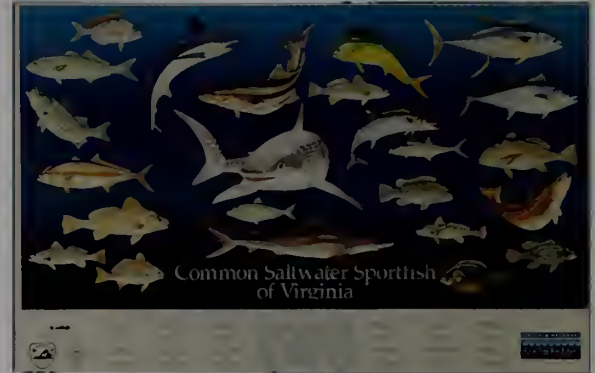
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# GIFT CATALOG

## LICENSE PLATES



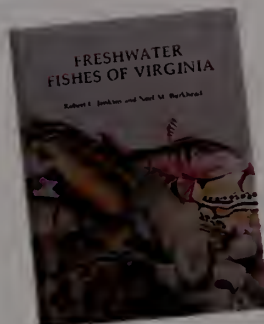
Now you can proudly display your support of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries with our white-tailed deer, large-mouth bass, mallard, brook trout or turkey Wildlife Conservationist license plates. Available from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Sales proceeds will benefit VDGIF's efforts to conserve and manage fish and wildlife populations today—and tomorrow.



## BOOKS

### *The Reptiles of Virginia*

by Joseph C. Mitchell. \$40 plus \$2.25 each postage and handling. This is the first complete catalogue of Virginia's snakes, lizards, and turtles. Featuring 63 full-color illustrations, distribution maps and easy-to-use identification keys in 384 pages. Order from: Smithsonian Institution Press, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17294-0900. Call toll-free 1-800-782-4612.



### *Freshwater Fishes of Virginia*

by Robert E. Jenkins and Noel M. Burkhead. \$85. This authority on Virginia's fishes takes an in-depth look at 210 fish species. Over 1,000 pages with 40 color plates. Order from: Virginia Chapter, American Fisheries Society, c/o VDGIF, P.O. Box 996, Verona, VA 24482. Make checks payable to VA Chapter, AFS.

## 1998-99 VIRGINIA WATERFOWL PRINT AND STAMP



Seen from the Virginia shore is Rob Leslie's vision of mallards flying over the falls of the Potomac River at Great Falls National Park. Information about prints and stamps of this spectacular Northern Virginia scene are available from Sport'en Art, 1-800-328-5723.

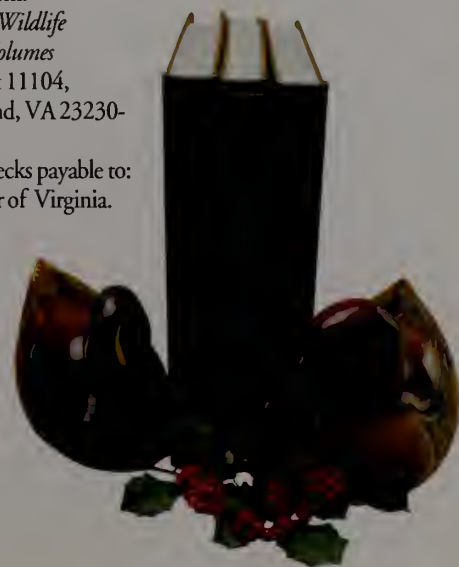
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# Virginia Wildlife Magazine



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